

that the pupil's progress would be evident even to himself. It should be put in such order that every year of study would count, in itself, for so much of real gain to the child in ability to think clearly, to know exactly, and to overcome obstacles.

The least measure of all these studies would, as far as they go, be of real benefit to all the pupils during their school years and afterwards. If a child attends school for only one, two or three years, the schooling of these years should be of lasting benefit to him in developing intelligence, personal ability and love of working with others to attain some end for the good of all.

Horses.

Stallion Syndicates.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I have been asked to say something in your valued paper regarding what is known as the syndication of stallions, a subject that has been discussed freely of late in the daily, weekly and agricultural papers of the Northwest.

Now, in my opinion, the idea or system of selling stallions to companies or syndicates is a perfectly sound one; in fact, the only possible way of getting first-class breeding stock into this great Western country. It offers the small farmer of limited means an opportunity to procure the services of a strictly high-class, choicely-bred stallion, a privilege he is not the least likely to obtain in any other way. This fact is so self-evident that it requires no argument. Like many other things that are good in themselves, however, the syndicate system is subject to abuse, and in point of fact is being badly abused at the present day. Many cases have been cited, and many more could easily be cited, where syndicates of farmers have purchased for \$3,700 and \$4,000, horses that could not be classed either as first-class or second-class. We all know, of course, that good horses cost good prices, and are worth it. We also know that third-rate horses are always cheap and plentiful, and are not calculated to improve the stock of the country. But worse than all, it is a noteworthy fact that certain parties have brought into Manitoba this last year and sold at high prices stallions that were practically barren, and known to be so, and now, after a season's trial and a heavy loss to the farmers, these stallions are left on their hands, absolutely valueless. You ask why? Was there no guarantee given? Yes, probably there was something given under the name of a guarantee, but like the horse—it happens to be without any value. One of those so-called guarantees has just been put before me. It states that the horse shall get a certain percentage of foals, under certain specified conditions, but there is absolutely no obligation or penalty attached in the event that the horse does not come up to that guarantee. In other words, it is no guarantee at all, but only a pretense and a swindle. You then enquire about the seller, and ask whether or not he is financially responsible, or whether his reputation will not suffer? I answer that such men care nothing for reputation, and whether they happen to be rich or poor makes no particular difference. They have set out to beat the farmers by sleek, silver-tongued oratory, and they do it and laugh at them afterwards.

Now, if a farmer wants a binder, does he allow himself to be talked into buying an obscure machine because it is represented to be just as good as those of well-known standard firms? No, he prefers to buy the kind that have been abundantly tested and tried and not found wanting. Would not the same kind of horse-sense be a good thing to apply in buying a stallion? No man or set of men, however experienced, can possibly tell the real value of an untried stallion. They do not know whether he is worth \$2,500 or only \$250. It all depends on his breeding qualities, and whether the seller will live up to his guarantee in the event of the horse failing to give satisfaction. Last year we sold about forty stallions to syndicates in Manitoba and the Northwest. Of this number all except five have given satisfaction and fulfilled the guarantee. Those five had to be replaced, and I take pleasure in referring your readers to all those cases, with the view of finding out whether or not those buyers were fairly treated. The places are Hartney, Rapid City, Griswold, Crandall and Carlyle, Assa. The officers of the other thirty-five syndicates can be named if desired.

In closing, I would say that in the purchase of stallions, perhaps more than any other commodity, it is absolutely imperative that the seller be a well-known, reputable, trustworthy, responsible party, and that some intelligence and good common sense be used by the purchasers. The syndicate or co-operative system of buying is all right, if only upright and businesslike methods and ordinary good judgment be used. It has been practiced in the United States for nearly twenty years successfully, and is more popular now than ever.

ALEX. GALBRAITH.

Brandon, Man.

The Mare and the Foal.

As foaling time is approaching, a few words re mare and foal may not be out of place.

It is good practice to feed the mare liberally on easily-digested food, of which bran forms a large portion, and give her regular exercise or light work until she is nearly due. In many cases mares are worked until they show evident symptoms of immediate parturition. When the period of gestation is within a few weeks of expiring, she should have a roomy, comfortable well-ventilated box stall, without boxes or mangers, in which she might drop the foal, as occasionally a mare retains the standing position during parturition. The stall should be kept scrupulously clean, and it is good practice to scatter slacked lime on the floor each morning after cleaning it out. This acts well as a disinfectant and antiseptic. The attendant should have in a convenient place in the stable an eight-ounce bottle containing fifteen grs. corrosive sublimate and eight ounces pure water, also some soft, strong string, and a knife. When the symptoms indicate that parturition is about to take place she should be carefully watched. This precaution is wise for various reasons. For instance, some abnormality may be present in either dam or fetus which will retard or possibly prevent parturition, and if not rectified promptly will endanger the life of one or both; the offspring may be born enclosed in the foetal membranes, and if these be not promptly ruptured, it will suffocate.

Instinct teaches the mare to rupture these with her teeth, but if labor has been protracted or severe she will usually lie for a few minutes after delivering, and the foal will suffocate before she gives it her attention; the umbilical cord may not be severed—this is usually the case when the membranes (either ruptured or intact) are expelled with the fetus. These and other reasons, we think, are sufficient to make it wise to watch the mare that is about to bring forth young. The attendant should be a careful and intelligent man, who has some knowledge of the phenomena about to take place. He should be as quiet as possible, and endeavor to avoid all excitement. If his presence appears to annoy or excite the mare, he should keep out of her sight, but in such a position that he can see her. If the act is taking place in a normal manner, he should not interfere, but if, after a reasonable time after labor pains are noticed, they continue and no progress towards delivery is noticed, he should endeavor to ascertain the cause of delay. If, having discovered the cause, his knowledge and skill are such that he can rectify the fault or remove the obstruction, he should do so promptly, but if he decide that he is not able to do this, he should send for an obstetricist at once, as unskillful interference often complicates matters and renders the services of the obstetricist unavailing. While interference is often necessary, it is unwise to interfere until the symptoms clearly indicate that such is necessary. The severity and duration of labor pains differ greatly in different cases, and we should allow nature to accomplish the act if she can.

In many cases of easy parturition, the fetus is born in the membranes, and when this occurs prompt measures are necessary; the membranes must be ruptured at once, and the young animal exposed, else he will suffocate; the mucus should be removed from its nostrils, mouth and eyes, and a soft, strong cord tied tightly around the umbilical cord (navel string), about an inch from the abdomen, and cut off about an inch below that. In all cases where the cord is not severed during parturition, this should be done. If the dam is attentive, it is well to leave the foal to her care now for a time; if not, it should be rubbed well with wisps of straw, or coarse cloths until dry. When it tries to rise it should be assisted, and it is often well, especially if it be rather weak or the mare irritable, to assist it in getting the first suck. If too weak to stand it requires two men, one to hold its hind parts and the other its fore and direct the mouth to the teat. This should be done at least every hour until it gains sufficient strength to help itself. If the mare be vicious, a twitch applied for a few times during sucking will usually suffice. Horse breeders are aware that large numbers of foals are lost every year by a disease called joint ill or navel ill. This is due to the entrance of a microbe into the circulation by the umbilical or navel opening. This microbe exists in the ground or in the stable, hence the advisability of cleanliness as already mentioned. There is practically no cure for this disease, hence it is wise to adopt preventive measures. As soon as convenient after birth the attendant should dress the cord with the solution of corrosive sublimate mentioned, and repeat the dressing several times

daily until the opening is healed. This prevents the disease by destroying the microbe if present. Then again, breeders know that many foals die from what is usually called constipation. This is really a retention of the meconium (the contents of the intestines at birth); this exists in balls of a dark, almost black color, and of a sticky consistence. The balls are often so large that the little thing cannot pass them out of the anus. The administration of purgatives is always dangerous in very young animals, and especially so in these cases, as while they liquify the contents of the anterior intestines, they have no action on the contents of the rectum, where the trouble exists. It is good practice in all cases, instead of giving medicines by the mouth, to oil the fore finger, insert it carefully into the rectum, and remove all the lumps that can be reached, then inject a little warm water and raw linseed oil; do this three or four times daily until the faeces that pass are yellow, which tells us that the meconium has all passed, when the danger will be over. In rare cases it is wise to give a little castor oil, but drastic purgatives should never be given. The mechanical removal of the meconium, if done promptly, will usually suffice, and with but few exceptions it is all passed in about 24 hours after birth. Notice should also be taken to see that the foal voids its urine by the normal channel. If this channel be not pervious, the urine will escape through the umbilical opening, and if the cord be tied the foal will not be able to void urine at all. When conditions of this kind are noticed, a veterinarian should be called in at once, to pass a catheter and break down the false membrane that occludes the exit from the bladder.

"WHIP."

Clydesdale Points.

The points of a typical Clydesdale are thus described by the editor of the Scottish Farmer, and are applicable in a general way to all heavy draft horses:

"A good Clydesdale is a thick, wide, low-set animal, from 15.3 to 17 hands, according to sex, the male weighing, when in good order, 1,900 to 2,200 pounds, the female 1,800 to 2,000 pounds. The color should be either bay, brown, or black, with white hind 'socks' and a stripe or star of white on the face. The Clydesdale should walk at a swinging pace of not less than four miles an hour, and if he wants to trot he should move straight and close, with the points of the hocks turned inward, rather than outward. He should not be wide between the thighs, nor should his fore legs be planted on the outside of his shoulders, causing him to walk like a bulldog. His feet should be large and open—wide at the coronets. His pasterns should be long and oblique, and his bones flat, thin, broad; in fact, he should be 'razor-legged.' You will search a long while before you will get a better word than that to describe a Clydesdale's legs. A Clydesdale should have plenty of spirit and vim, but no vice. Never buy a Clydesdale which the seller won't show you going at a walking gait. A draft horse should be a good walker, and no horse that walks well will trot badly. Many a helpless brute when walking will give you a short, flash show at the trot."

Mules are Valuable.

According to statistics published by the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, the total number of horses in that country on January 1st, 1903, was 16,557,373, being 26,149 more than on the same date in 1902. The average value of the horses this year is \$62.25, and last year \$58.61. The number of mules on hand on January 1st, this year, is 28,929 less than last year, but their average value is placed at \$72.49, \$10.24 more than that of the horse. This would seem to indicate that the Americans, like the Canadians, are breeding an enormous number of very inferior horses, and these, most probably, of the lighter classes, for it is probable that a horse having weight to perform such work as mules are required to do, would be worth as much as the latter on the market. Surely the selection and crossing that we have been doing in our horse-breeding operations has been worse than fallacious, since we have now brought the average value of the most noble of animals down below that of a hybrid nondescript. Will our farmers never awaken to the importance of careful study and selection in the matter of stock breeding?

Subscriber for Years.

I have been a subscriber to the "Farmer's Advocate" for ten years, and would not do without it on any account. J. N. KENNEY. Olds, Alta.